

CBS EVENING NEWS
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U.S. EMBASSY/
BOMB PLOT

SAWYER: Last April's bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, in which 63 people are known to have died, was one haunting tragedy. Now Pentagon correspondent David Martin has learned that the same terrorists had planned to strike again.

MARTIN: Government sources tell CBS News that within weeks of the bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut, U.S. Intelligence uncovered a similar plan to blow up the American Embassy in Kuwait. Like the bombing in Beirut, these sources says, the intelligence indicated that the plot against the embassy in Kuwait was being run from Tehran by the Iranian foreign ministry. Security in Kuwait was tightened, and according to one account, the U.S. secretly approached Rafat Assad, brother of Syrian President Hafez Assad, to ask for help in heading off the plot. Rafat runs the Syrian intelligence services, and some U.S. officials believe he provided safe passage through Syria for the Iranians who masterminded the Beirut bombing. The plot against the embassy in Kuwait never came off. It is not known what role, if any, Rafat played in aborting the plot, but by arranging the release a short time later of David Dodge, president of the American University in Beirut, who had been kidnapped and held captive in Iran, Rafat demonstrated his ability to deal with Iranian terrorists. David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.